

June 2009

Special points of interest:

- Check out police reports in your neighborhood. Go to <http://imaps.indygov.org/cvc>
- Watch IMPD unsolved crime on YOUTUBE at <http://www.youtube.com/user/IndyUnsolved>



Community Informer

**38th Street Cruising Detail**

Commander Robert Holt is taking an aggressive approach this summer to address a long standing problem that has plagued the residents who live in the area of 34th and 38th streets from Fall Creek Parkway to Emerson Avenue. Just imagine every Saturday and Sunday night being awakened by thumping car stereos, squealing tires, and shots fired. Almost like clockwork, hordes of vehicles have been descending upon this portion of 38th Street on Saturday and Sunday nights. Open businesses have been shut down by vehicles not patronizing their business and blocking their parking lots. At times, the entire street has been blocked by cruisers and people partying and dancing in the streets. Often, as these gatherings of cruisers on the lots and in the street have grown, fights will break out leading to gunfire and injuries. This summer, Commander Holt and the department have adopted an aggressive stance to combat this ongoing disruption of the peace. Large numbers of officers from various agencies will be conducting intensive proactive patrols in the area and barricading parking lots frequented by the cruisers. The days of warnings and simply moving the crowds of more than a hundred people along are over. This summer, the department will be expending a significant amount of manpower, resources and money to send a clear message. The citizen's of Indianapolis have a right to not be subjected to this kind of disorder every weekend and that there will be a price for those who feel that it is acceptable to disrupt entire neighborhoods to have a party in the streets. The residents of the 38th Street and the North District look forward to weekends of peace and quiet this summer.

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Alert Officer Stops Robbery Spree

Officer Doug Correll is one of the two Officers of the Month for the month of May following his outstanding performance in catching some armed robbers. He provides a great example of a motivated and dedicated beat officer. On May 30th there were two separate incidents where multiple suspects committed an armed robbery of a person. Although these robberies occurred nowhere near his assigned patrol area and descriptions at times can be vague and general, Officer Correll worked hard searching for the suspects. The description of the suspects' vehicle could have matched many vehicles. There was no plate number and the car was described as a black 90's Chevy Caprice with no hubcaps. Nearly two hours after the second of these robberies, Officer Correll thought he had a possible matching car more than three miles away. He summoned other officers and detained the car and its occupants. The ensuing investigation would last more than eight hours, well beyond the end of his shift, and result in the arrest of the robbery suspects and the recovery of the handguns used in the robberies. Thanks to Officer Correll's tenacity and attention to detail, these dangerous criminals are now off the street.

North District Hosts Community Day

IMPD- North District 2009 3rd annual Community Day, Thursday, June 25th, 2009 from 3pm – 7pm, Broad Ripple Park – 1550 Broad Ripple Avenue. Community Day is a FREE event that allows residents to interact with members of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. In addition to the IMPD, we currently have over 50 community organizations and service providers who will have educational booths present with children's activities and information. Some of the participants will include Health and Hospital, American

Red Cross, the Boy Scout Band and the U.S. Coast Guard. The Indianapolis, Indians' Rowdie will be on hand as well as Indiana Pacers and the Indiana Colts' Cheerleaders. We will serve hot dogs, soda and chips for everyone to enjoy from 3:30pm to 6:30pm, as well as cotton candy and snow cones. There will be bounce houses and other activities for kids to enjoy. Bring your family and enjoy an afternoon with the IMPD!



Graffiti Clean Up 2009

Graffiti is an important quality of life that affects an entire neighborhood. The presence of graffiti tends to encourage other graffiti "taggers" to place more graffiti in the area. Graffiti not only causes a direct financial loss to the owner of a property, but it also negatively impacts the entire neighborhood by diminishing property values and inviting more graffiti and other crimes into the area. This year, IMPD North District and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office are teaming up again to work on the graffiti issue that has affected several areas of the North District.

We are asking that the residents assist us in identifying locations that have been vandalized and to facilitate a clean up. If you or your neighbors have been tagged with graffiti, please call 327-6100 to make a police report. Please have the exact address and owner information, if possible. These reports will be given to Anne Rincker with the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. Mrs. Rincker will contact the property owner and ask if they will clean the graffiti as soon as possible. If the property owner needs assistance to paint, we will then contact the Adult Probation Department and ask for a work crew to come out and paint over the graffiti. When a crew comes out, they will be supervised by an employee of the probation department, a police officer, and Anne Rincker with MCPO. Only gray paint is available for free. If the property owner would like another color of paint, they will need to provide it to the crew. We also must have a consent form signed by the property owner before any painting can be done. If the owner cannot be found or does not wish to be assisted, then the property will not be able to be painted. It is important to call and make a graffiti report so that the property can be added to the list for clean up.

4th of July! Know the Fireworks Law

Summer is upon us and so is the season of fireworks. Many people find it difficult to keep up with changing fireworks laws. Here is a summary of the current Indiana Law IC22-11-14-6 and Indianapolis City Ordinance 407-201.

Fireworks law provisions:

- Fireworks may be used **only on the user's property; or on the property of someone who has consented to the use of fireworks**; or at a special discharge location.
- Fireworks can be purchased only by persons 18 years of age or older and children may possess or use any kind of firework only when an adult is present.

City Ordinance 407-201

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to use, ignite, or discharge any consumer fireworks, as defined in IC 22-11-14, at any place in the consolidated city, except during the following times:

- (1) On June 28 through July 3rd, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and two (2) hours after sunset;
- (2) On July 4, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight;
- (3) On July 5 through July 9th, between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and two (2) hours after sunset;
- (4) On December 31 and January 1, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. on December 31 and 1:00 a.m. January 1.

Call for Help Response Leads to Bank Robbery Catch

On May 1, 2009 a call for help was dispatched to 4562 N. Shadeland Ave. The caller stated that a female had gone into the credit union screaming and was followed by a man wearing a hat. Officer Robert Pyatskowit decided to back himself up to a Lawrence Police Officer and drove to the scene. He arrived on the scene first and immediately encountered a man leaving the bank wearing white construction type gloves and carrying a bag of money. The man was attempted to walk away telling the officers repeatedly that "the guy you want is inside." When the officers continued to challenge this subject and order him to stop, he told them that he could not put his hands up as he had a gun under his arm. After handcuffing the suspect, Officer Pyatskowit learned that the bank had just been robbed. This run quickly evolved from a call for help into a dangerous confrontation with an armed bank robber attempting to get away. Officer Pyatskowit's is very deserving of being one of the two North District Officers of the Month.

Crime Watches: Bringing Neighbors Together

The purpose of the Crime Watch is to create a self-help cooperative effort to reduce crime and the fear of crime in neighborhoods. This is achieved by citizens, law enforcement, and local government working together.

Crime Watch is a division of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. Citizens participating in this program become more aware of crime prevention techniques that can help lower their risk of becoming victims. A pro-active approach against crime is taken through communication and cooperation of citizens, local government and law enforcement.

Over time, Crime Watch has developed additional programs in response to the needs of the community. Programs also promote crime prevention education. The Crime Watch program continues to find innovative ways in responding to the needs of the community, with crime prevention education being its primary goal.

Organizing neighborhood block clubs has been the primary focus of Crime Watch since its inception in 1976. A few concerned residents, a community organization, or a law enforcement agency can spearhead the effort to organize a block club.



To organize a block club, residents are required to have two meetings; one with the district Crime Watch specialist and the other with a community relations officer. Meetings train members in home security and reporting skills. Members are provided with the latest information on local crime patterns. Block clubs are not asked to be vigilantes or to assume the role of the police. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. Crime Watch programs help to build pride and serve as a springboard for efforts that address community concerns. Remember "Great Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods."

The North District Crime Watch Specialist is Shirley Purvitis. Anyone interested in forming a Crime Watch can contact her at 327-3781 or P1527@indygov.org for assistance or information.

*"Never doubt that
a small group of
thoughtful,
committed citizens
can change the
world. Indeed, it is
the only thing that
ever has."*

-Margaret Mead

IMPD to Conduct Summer Curfew Sweeps

Summer is here! Along with summer vacations come curfew patrols. IMPD will be conducting curfew sweeps to protect our young residents. Curfews can help in restoring and maintaining order in neighborhoods. In addition to equipping law enforcement with tools to keep youth off the streets, curfews provide parents with a legitimate, legal basis for restricting the activities of their children. Since juvenile perpetrators of crime often victimize other juveniles, it is hoped that rates of youth victimization will drop as well. The curfew in Indianapolis is as follows:

Children under 15 years of age may not be in a public place after 11:00p or before 5:00a any day of the week.

Children 15, 16 or 17 years of age have the same restrictions as those under 15 with the exception that they may remain out until 1:00a on Saturday and Sundays (Friday and Saturday nights).

Curfew does not apply to a child who is:

- (1) accompanied by the child's parent, guardian or custodian;
- (2) accompanied by an adult specified by the child's parent, guardian or custodian;
- (3) With the consent of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian, either participating in, going to, or returning from:
 - a. Lawful employment;
 - b. A school-sanctioned activity;
 - c. A religious event;
 - d. An emergency involving the protection of a person or property from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or substantial damage;
 - e. An expressive, religious or associational activity protected by either federal or state law, including but not limited to the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and the right of assembly;
 - f. An activity conducted by a non-profit or governmental entity that provides recreation, education, training, or other care under the supervision of (1) or more adults; or
 - g. An activity undertaken at the written direction of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian

Burglary Prevention Tips

Landscaping

- Visibility is the key.
- Keep bushes trimmed below window level.
- Trees and shrubs blocking window provide a hiding spot for criminals while they try to break in.
- Plant thorny vegetation (especially under windows) to dissuade access.

Exterior Lighting

- Lighting has proven to be the one deterrent that can prevent property crime at night.
- Motion sensor lights are an inexpensive alternative and effective.
- Lights left on day and night may indicate that the resident is not home.

Strike Plates

- Place on all entry doors. (including the garage entry into the home door)
- Install with 2-3 inch screws, extend into the framework of the door or building not just the trim molding.
- Makes it harder to kick open if a solid core door is used at all entry points

Fences

- Criminals like a clear path for escape.
- Fences slow them down. But privacy fences help them to hide.
- It prevents removal of heavy items, including vehicles.

Sliding Glass Doors

- Usually have a latch, not a lock.
- Even when latched, it can still be lifted off the track.
- Secure by installing a pin lock in the bottom track.
- Place a screw in the upper casing so that the door will slide past it but the window can not be lifted out.

Operation Identification

- Pick up an engraver from any home or hobby supply.
- Engrave commonly stolen items (TV, camcorders, DVD players, cameras, video games systems, etc).
- Use your driver's license number.
- Make sure to keep a list of serial numbers and photos along with how and where you have marked your articles.